

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for sending electronic mail, including
separating at least one attachment from a text portion in an electronic mail message such that a link is created between said at least one attachment and said text portion;
delivering said at least one attachment at a time other than when said text portion is delivered;
using a non-email transfer protocol to deliver said at least one attachment;
~~selecting a preferred method for delivery; and~~
obtaining from a recipient a preferred method for delivery;
making said at least one attachment available from said text portion.

2-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~selecting~~ obtaining further includes probing the ~~receiving device~~ recipient to ascertain at least one preferred format and reformatting and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one format responsive to said probing.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said making further includes
publishing said at least one attachment at a location relatively local to [a] said recipient device;
initiating a fetch for said at least one attachment;
fetching said at least one attachment;
presenting said at least one attachment to said recipient; and
scanning said electronic mail automatically on a regular basis for one of said links embedded in said electronic mail message and pre-fetching an associated

attachment to be cached at a location relatively local to [a] said recipient device.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said publishing occurs at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said initiating is directed at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said at least one attachment is located at its cached location and transferred to said recipient device.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said at least one attachment has been predownloaded to said recipient device.

21. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said scanning is performed by some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

22. (currently amended) An apparatus for sending electronic mail, including
means for separating at least one attachment from a text portion in an electronic mail message such that a link is created between said at least one attachment and said text portion;

means for delivering said at least one attachment at a time other than when said text portion is delivered;

means for using a non-email transfer protocol to deliver said at least one attachment;

means for ~~selecting a preferred method for delivery;~~ and obtaining from a recipient a preferred method for delivery;

means for making said at least one attachment available from said text portion.

23-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for ~~selecting~~ obtaining further includes means for probing the ~~receiving device~~ recipient to ascertain at least one preferred format and means for reformatting and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one format responsive to said means for probing.

37. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for making further includes

means for publishing said at least one attachment at a location relatively local to [a] said recipient device;

means for initiating a fetch for said at least one attachment;

means for fetching said at least one attachment;

means for presenting said at least one attachment to said recipient; and

means for scanning said electronic mail automatically on a regular basis for one of said links embedded in said electronic mail message and means for pre-fetching an associated attachment to be cached at a location relatively local to [a] said recipient device.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said means for publishing occurs at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

39. (original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said means for initiating is directed at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

40. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said at least one attachment is located at its cached location and transferred to said recipient device.

41. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said at least one attachment has been predownloaded to said recipient ~~device~~.

42. (original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said means for scanning is performed by some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

43. (currently amended) The method of claim [12] 1, wherein said ~~selecting~~ obtaining further includes probing the ~~receiving device~~ recipient to ascertain at least one caching location and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one caching location responsive to said probing.

44. (currently amended) The method of claim [12] 1, wherein said ~~selecting~~ obtaining further includes probing the ~~receiving device~~ recipient to ascertain at least one transfer protocol for delivery of said at least one attachment and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one transfer protocol responsive to said probing.

45. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for ~~selecting~~ obtaining further includes means for probing the ~~receiving device~~ recipient to ascertain at least one caching location and means for transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one caching location responsive to said means for probing.

46. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for ~~selecting~~ obtaining further includes means for probing the ~~receiving device~~ recipient to ascertain at least one transfer protocol for delivery of said at least one attachment and means for transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one transfer protocol responsive to said means for probing.

47. (new) A computer implemented method comprising:
separating an attachment from an email message;
forming a linked email message comprising the email message and a link to the

attachment;

probing a recipient for a method of delivery;

delivering the linked email message;

delivering the attachment according to the method of delivery in response to execution of the link in the linked email.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein said recipient is selected from the group consisting of a recipient, recipient gateway, and an application service provider.

49. (new) The method of claim 47, further comprising caching said attachment at an intermediate location.